

Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report 22 March 2012

Top Stories

- Taiwanese security personnel detained a suspected Chinese spy at a military base that uses sensitive U.S. technology. He was the fourth Taiwanese in 14 months arrested for spying for China. *Associated Press* (See item 11)
- Officials at the agency in charge of America's nuclear stockpile said they face millions of hacking attempts daily by governments and sophisticated non-state actors. *U.S. News and World Report* (See item <u>13</u>)
- Two California men pleaded guilty to stealing numbers from 94,000 credit- and debit-card accounts. The men used the stolen numbers to withdraw money with from nearly 1,000 card holders' accounts. *U.S. Department of Justice* (See item 16)
- Storms that hit the south-central United States wiped out a city parks complex and county fairgrounds in Arkansas, and caused flooding that closed bridges and roads in Kansas, Missouri, and Oklahoma. *Associated Press* (See item 46, 19)

Fast Jump Menu

PRODUCTION INDUSTRIES

- Energy
- Chemical
- Nuclear Reactors, Materials and Waste
- Critical Manufacturing
- Defense Industrial Base
- Dams

SUSTENANCE and HEALTH

- Agriculture and Food
- Water
- Public Health and Healthcare

SERVICE INDUSTRIES

- Banking and Finance
- Transportation
- Postal and Shipping
- Information Technology
- Communications
- Commercial Facilities

FEDERAL and STATE

- Government Facilities
- Emergency Services
- National Monuments and Icons

Energy Sector

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: <u>Physical</u>: LOW, <u>Cyber</u>: LOW Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) - [http://www.esisac.com]

1. *March 20*, *WSVN 7 Miami* – (Florida) **Jeep crashes, catches fire at gas station.** A Jeep crashed into a gas pump and burst into flames at a Miami gas station March 21. Thick black smoke and high flames burst out of the Jeep after it knocked over the pump. Surveillance video at the station showed another car waiting for a gas pump. The Jeep pulls in, cuts in front of the the car, and slams into the pump, which immediately goes up in flames. The Jeep's driver managed to escape without injuries. Miami Beach firefighters were called to the scene and rushed in with extinguishers. The crash caused extensive damage to the pump — burnt it and pulled it out of the ground — preventing customers from filling up until at least March 22. The convenience store at the station remains open.

Source: http://www.wsvn.com/news/articles/local/21006997148799/jeep-crashes-catches-fire-at-gas-station/

2. *March 20, Associated Press* – (Arizona) **Fuel tanker stolen from Superior Municipal Airport.** Authorities are investigating the theft of a fuel tanker from Superior Municipal Airport in Superior, Arizona. Superior police said the tanker was believed to have been stolen sometime between March 5 and March 8. An unknown number of suspects used bolt cutters to gain access inside a locked side gate on airport property and then cut a second lock to obtain a jet fuel tank belonging to Southwest Heliservices in Superior. The tank was attached to a 16-foot utility trailer. The 600-gallon aluminum tank had about 375 gallons of jet fuel at the time of the theft. The tank has a fixed pump, filter, and hose reel. The value of the tank and fuel contents is estimated at \$10,000.

Source: http://www.myfoxphoenix.com/dpp/news/crime/Stolen-Fuel-Tanker-3-20-2012

3. *March* 20, *Reuters* – (Texas) **Storms leave more than 77,000 without power in Texas.** Strong thunderstorms knocked out power to more than 77,000 homes and businesses in Texas, March 20, with most outages occurring around Houston, according to the state's power companies. The U.S. National Weather Service issued a flash flood watch for the Houston area. CenterPoint, which provides power to much of the Houston area reported about 45,000 customers without power. San Antonio's CPS Energy, which serves more than 717,000 electric customers, said it had about 14,000 customers with no power.

 $Source: \underline{http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/03/20/utilities-texas-outages-\underline{idUSL1E8EK3R020120320}$

4. *March 19*, *WNEP 16 Scranton* – (Pennsylvania) **Major diesel spill in Montour County.** Environmental crews were cleaning a major diesel fuel spill near Danville in Montour County, Pennsylvania, WNEP 16 Scranton reported March 19. An emergency response coordinator said 1,500 gallons of diesel fuel spilled by Route 54 March 16,

just missing Mahoning Creek. Mahoning Township Police are working to figure out if the spill was an accident or vandalism. The police chief said valves on the back of one of the trucks were opened. Environmental crews said they will be cleaning up the diesel spill in Mahoning Township for the entire week of March 19. Police said the investigation is ongoing.

Source: http://www.wnep.com/wnep-major-diesel-spill-in-montour-county-20120319,0,24276.story

For more stories, see items 13 and 25

Return to top

Chemical Industry Sector

5. March 21, Chemical Regulation Reporter – (National) EPA proposes significant new use rules, test regulation for variety of chemicals. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) proposed a package of rules March 20 that would require chemical producers and other manufacturers to notify it before they make, import, or process a variety of chemicals, including certain flame retardants, in ways the agency would designate as new uses. The package consists of six elements: proposed revisions to existing significant new use rules (SNURs) covering a group of flame retardants called polybrominated diphenyl ethers (PBDEs) and existing SNURs for benzidine-based dyes; newly proposed SNURs for hexabromocyclododecane, or HBCD, a flame retardant, a phthalate called di-n-pentyl phthalate (DnPP), and one type of short-chain chlorinated paraffin called alkanes, C12-13, chloro; and a proposed test rule for PBDEs that would be coupled with the agency's proposed amended significant new use rules for those flame retardants. Companies that import the seven PBDEs or nine benzidinebased dyes as part of "articles" — products such as furniture or electronics — would be covered by the SNURs addressing those chemicals. The rules emerged from a series of action plans the agency has issued since December 2009.

Source: http://www.bna.com/epa-proposes-significant-n12884908483/

6. *March 21, Associated Press* – (New York) Cleanup set to start at long-tainted Onondaga Lake. A project to clean up a heavily polluted lake in Geddes, New York, is set to begin, the Associated Press reported March 21. Honeywell International officials told the Syracuse Post-Standard they are continuing to prepare the shoreline of Onondaga Lake as part of the cleanup. Part of the lake bottom will be dredged and part of it capped to keep mercury and other chemicals from contaminating fish. Dredging should begin this spring or summer and work is expected to last until 2016. Honeywell succeeded Allied Chemical, which released mercury and other chemicals into the lake. Honeywell has agreed to spend \$550 million and Onondaga County is spending \$600 million. From 1946 until 1970, Allied dumped about 165,000 pounds of mercury into the lake. It is on the federal Superfund list of toxic waste sites.

Source: http://www.the-leader.com/newsnow/x1730866181/Cleanup-set-to-start-at-long-tainted-Onondaga-Lake

7. *March 21, Chatham Star Tribune* – (Virginia) **Gretna man dies in fertilizer truck crash.** A man died March 20 when the fertilizer truck he was driving overturned west of Chatham, Virginia, about 2 miles north of Route 57. A state trooper said it appeared the truck ran off the right side of the road and then overturned after the driver overcorrected. The road was closed for 7 hours while the road was cleaned up and the truck's organic liquid fertilizer load was transferred by transportation department crews and a HAZMAT team.

Source: http://www.wpcva.com/news/article_7d377c4e-7357-11e1-bd06-0019bb2963f4.html

8. *March 21, Chicago Sun-Times* – (Illinois) **Tanker tie-up on the Tri-State.** Authorities closed southbound Interstate 294 between 95th and 127th streets in Chicago for more than 8 hours March 20 after a tanker truck containing hydrochloric acid overturned on the tollway. It turned over and blocked all three lanes of traffic after a vehicle made an illegal U-turn in its path, an Illinois State Police trooper said. Two lanes of northbound I-294 also were closed for a time to allow tollway maintenance crews to divert traffic between 95th Street and the tanker. Authorities had to empty the tanker before it could be removed, and HAZMAT crews had to clean chemicals, including gasoline, off the highway.

Source: http://www.suntimes.com/news/11422500-418/tanker-tie-up-on-the-tri-state.html

9. *March* 20, *WGHP* 8 *High Point* – (North Carolina) **Several injured in explosion at plant near Elkin.** As many as four people were injured March 20 in a dust explosion at Carolina Precision Fibers in Ronda, North Carolina. The fire marshal said one person suffered serious injuries and that all four victims were transported to area hospitals. March 20, the fire marshal said crews were still working to extinguish the "flash fire." Several firemen were treated for smoke inhalation and heat exhaustion. At least three fire departments and EMS responded.

Source: http://myfox8.com/2012/03/20/possible-explosion-at-plant-near-elkin/

For more stories, see items 18 and 47

Return to top

Nuclear Reactors, Materials and Waste Sector

See item 13

Return to top

Critical Manufacturing Sector

10. *March* 20, *U.S. Department of Labor* – (Illinois) **U.S. Department of Labor's OSHA cites Kishwaukee Forge Co. after worker suffers amputation at Cortland, Ill., manufacturing site.** The U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration, March 20 cited Kishwaukee Forge Co. in Courtland, Illinois, with eight

safety violations — including two willful — after a worker's thumb was amputated September 22, 2011, when a forging machine foot pedal, which was not adequately guarded, operated unintentionally. The willful violations involve failing to schedule and record inspections of guards and point-of-operation protection devices at frequent and regular intervals for forging machines, and to protect the foot-operated devices of forging machines from unintended operation. Five serious violations and one other-than-serious violation were also cited. Kishwaukee Forge specializes in manufacturing steel, alloy, and stainless forgings.

Source:

http://www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owadisp.show_document?p_table=NEWS_RELEAS_ES&p_id=22041

Return to top

Defense Industrial Base Sector

11. *March 21, Associated Press* – (International) **Spies target Taiwan's U.S.-made defenses.** Taiwanese security personnel detained a suspected spy for China at a top secret military base that utilizes sensitive U.S. technology in February, the Associated Press reported March 21. The air force captain was the fourth Taiwanese in 14 months known to have been picked up on charges of spying for China. While Taiwan's defense ministry did not disclose details of the alleged offense, his base in the northern part of the island hosts the air force's highly classified radar system and U.S.-made Patriot surface-to-air missiles. The captain's arrest followed that of a major general, who had access to crucial information on Taiwan's U.S.-designed command and control system, and a civilian, who the defense ministry says tried without success to inveigle Patriot-related secrets from an unnamed military officer. A fourth alleged spy was detained on non-defense-related charges. The cases show China is seeking data about systems integral to Taiwan's defenses and built with sensitive U.S. equipment. Information about the defense systems could also help the People's Liberation Army understand other U.S. defenses.

Source: http://militarytimes.com/news/2012/03/ap-china-spies-target-taiwan-us-made-defenses-032112/

12. *March* 20, *Bloomberg* – (Arizona; National) **Raytheon's \$621 million halted by U.S.** on missile delays. The U.S. Air Force is withholding \$621 million in payments to Raytheon Co., the biggest U.S. maker of missiles for the U.S. military, citing chronic delays in delivering the most advanced air-to-air missile for the service and the U.S. Navy, Bloomberg reported March 20. Raytheon's Missile Systems unit, based in Tucson, Arizona, was 193 missiles behind schedule as of February 29, according to Air Force data. The Air Force notified Raytheon March 3 it was withholding \$419 million in fiscal 2010 payments. That is in addition to \$202 million the service was already withholding for 2007 to 2009. Alliant Techsystems Inc., Raytheon's subcontractor, "has had difficulty for the past year consistently producing rocket motors to specification," according to the Air Force. The missiles are the newest version of the Advanced Medium-Range Air-to-Air Missile. They are intended for deployment to Air Force fighter wings and Navy aircraft carriers once testing is done and they are

declared combat-ready in fiscal 2013, the service said.

Source: http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2012-03-20/raytheon-s-621-million-halted-by-u-s-on-missile-delays.html

13. March 20, U.S. News and World Report – (International) U.S. nukes face up to 10 million cyber attacks daily. According to U.S. News and World Report March 20, the computer systems of the agency in charge of America's nuclear weapons stockpile are "under constant attack" and face millions of hacking attempts daily, said officials at the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA). The head of the agency said it faces cyber attacks from a "full spectrum" of hackers. "They're from other countries' [governments], but we also get fairly sophisticated non-state actors as well," he said. "The [nuclear] labs are under constant attack, the Department of Energy is under constant attack." A spokesman for the NNSA said the Nuclear Security Enterprise experiences up to 10 million "security significant cyber security events" each day. "Of the security significant events, less than one hundredth of a percent can be categorized as successful attacks against the Nuclear Security Enterprise computing infrastructure," the spokesman said — which puts the maximum number at about 1,000 daily. The agency wants to increase its cybersecurity budget from about \$126 million in 2012 to about \$155 million in 2013 and developed an "incident response center" responsible for identifying and mitigating cybersecurity attacks.

Source: http://www.usnews.com/news/articles/2012/03/20/us-nukes-face-up-to-10-million-cyber-attacks-daily

Return to top

Banking and Finance Sector

- 14. *March 21, Philadelphia Inquirer* (Pennsylvania) **Guilty plea in \$31M mortgage fraud.** A man pleaded guilty March 20 to conspiracy and fraud charges connected to a mortgage foreclosure rescue scheme involving \$31 million in fraudulent loans on 120 properties, the U.S. attorney's office in Philadelphia said. Through his company, DeMarco REI Inc., the defendant offered to buy the houses of people facing foreclosure, allowing victims to stay in the houses and pay rent until they recovered financially and could buy the house back, according to a 15-count indictment filed in December 2010. In reality, he lined up straw buyers for the houses, used fraudulent documents to obtain mortgage loans, and stole \$11 million of homeowners' equity. Eventually, the new lenders foreclosed on the houses. The scheme operated from mid-2006 into 2009, but most of the fraudulent mortgages from 19 banks were obtained in 2007 and 2008, during the worst of the mortgage crisis.
 - Source: http://www.loansafe.org/guilty-plea-in-31m-mortgage-fraud
- 15. *March* 21, *Help Net Security* (International) **Mousetrap Trojan steals money by chain reaction.** The chief security researcher at Bitdefender warned of a new trojan that robs bank accounts. The new Mousetrap campaign starts with a Java applet that has been injected into a popular Web site. This malicious applet, disguised as Adobe Flash Player, warns the user the Flash Player plugin on their computer is outdated and needs an update, but, once executed, the applet downloads and installs another malicious

executable file on the machine of the Web site visitor. The attackers likely use 0-day vulnerabilities in blogging Web applications or brute-force weak administrator passwords to add their code in the header file. The downloaded file, written in Visual Basic and packed with UPX, is saved in a writeable location on the user's machine. It downloads and installs a banker from a list (hardcoded in the downloader) of a dozen available links that lead to different banker trojans. To ensure automatic launch, the banker creates a shortcut to itself. Each time the system starts, all programs with shortcuts added in that folder are automatically initiated as well, including the banker. Once on the system, the banker updates itself by downloading newer versions from a second list of links. The updates are hosted on multiple servers so that if one is shut down, the rest can still be accessed. The banker Trojan feeds users with a log-in form and asks them to fill it in. The data entered by the unwary clients is intercepted by crooks and sent to a C&C server.

Source: http://www.net-

security.org/malware news.php?id=2044&utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed:+HelpNetSecurity+(Help+Net+Security)&utm_content=Google+Reader http://www.net-

security.org/malware_news.php?id=2044&utm_source=feedburner&utm_med-###

16. March 20, U.S. Department of Justice – (California; National) Two southern California men plead guilty for their roles in a nationwide breach of credit and debit card terminals at Michaels Stores Inc. Two southern California men pleaded guilty March 20 for their roles in a scheme to defraud nearly 1,000 debit card holders by using stolen bank account information to withdraw money from ATMs, the U.S. Department of Justice and the Secret Service announced. The men were each charged with one count of conspiracy to commit bank fraud, one count of bank fraud, and one count of aggravated identity theft. The pair admitted that in about July 2011 they participated in a scheme to defraud bank account holders and financial institutions by obtaining 952 stolen bank cards and traveling to California to withdraw as much money as possible from ATMs using the stolen accounts. The information charges that these stolen cards were linked to a 2011 theft of a reported 94,000 debit and credit card account numbers from customers buying goods at 84 Michaels Stores Inc. across the United States. The perpetrators of that security breach replaced about 84 authentic personal identification number pads, used by the stores to process debit and credit card purchases, with fraudulent pads from which they downloaded customers' banking information. After this breach, financial institutions reported tens of thousands of incidents of fraudulent activity linked to customers who had visited the affected Michaels stores.

Source: http://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/2012/March/12-crm-347.html

17. *March 20, Richmond Times-Dispatch* – (Virginia) **Man pleads guilty in real estate investment scam.** The owner of a now-defunct Henrico County, Virginia real estate investment company admitted to charges of conspiracy to commit mail fraud in a plea agreement March 20 in U.S. district court. He faces a maximum of 5 years in prison, a fine of \$250,000, and 3 years of supervised release. The defendant, who ran Old Dominion Financial Services, acted in collusion with an accomplice, who is serving 10 years and 1 month in prison for running a real estate Ponzi scheme. About 80 Old

Dominion victims lost \$8.6 million, court records show. The pair, through their companies, solicited money from people in the Richmond area to invest in real estate. The Old Dominion owner funneled money from his investors to the accomplice, a former Henrico police officer, who ran Capital Funding & Consulting. The money was supposed to be used to buy and renovate fixer uppers and rent or flip the properties at a profit. In most cases, the work was never done. At least 136 people, mostly in the Richmond area, who invested through the two companies lost \$15.2 million in the scam, prosecutors say.

Source: http://www2.timesdispatch.com/business/2012/mar/20/david-silver-pleads-guilty-in-real-estate-investme-ar-1779889/

For another story, see item 40

Return to top

Transportation Sector

18. *March 21, Associated Press* – (South Carolina) **Train derailment victims get compensation.** CSX is offering to pay the expenses of those who were displaced by a train derailment in Abbeville, South Carolina, March 8, according to an Associated Press report March 21. Twenty-eight cars of a freight train hauling hazardous chemicals derailed, and as many as 1,000 people were evacuated at one time. About 50 residents were kept away from their homes for 2 days while the wreck was cleared. Officials said a tipped-over tanker carrying methanol was stable, but officials wanted residents near the tracks to stay away because the flammable liquid could have caught fire. The cause of the wreck is still under investigation.

Source: http://www.wyff4.com/r/30728796/detail.html

19. *March 21, MSNBC; Weather.com; Reuters; Associated Press* – (National) **Tornado** alerts follow flooding in southern states. A storm system that dumped up to a foot of rain in parts of Louisiana, causing isolated flash flooding, was threatening to spawn tornadoes there and in Mississippi, the National Weather Service warned. Large hail and wind gusts up to 70 mph were also possible in parts of both states through March 21. Flash floods were reported in Louisiana, Arkansas, and eastern Texas in the wake of "widespread heavy rain" March 20 and overnight. "Some roads are already flooded and closed ... and additional heavy rainfall will continue to produce more flash flooding" in northwest Louisiana, the National Weather Service stated. "This is an extremely dangerous situation." In Natchitoches, Louisiana, several homes were flooded and roads closed after rain overnight ranged from 5 to 10 inches, depending on the area, the service stated.

Source: http://usnews.msnbc.msn.com/_news/2012/03/21/10788247-extremely-dangerous-flash-floods-reported-in-louisiana-texas

20. *March 21*, *Associated Press* – (Alaska) **United Airlines passengers stranded for 2 days in Alaska.** Two-hundred and sixty-two passengers on a United Airlines flight were stranded in Anchorage, Alaska, for 2 days after a flight from San Francisco to Shanghai, China, was diverted. Flight 857 diverted to the nearest airport in Anchorage

when several lavatories were found to be inoperable about 3 hours after the flight's March 18 departure from San Francisco, a United Airlines spokesman said. Passengers said they waited in their seats for about 6 hours before they were allowed to deplane. United brought in another plane March 19, and passengers boarded, but that plane also had problems. Passengers finally took off March 20 in a third Boeing 777. Source: http://www.foxnews.com/us/2012/03/21/united-airlines-passengers-stranded-for-2-days-in-alaska/

21. *March* 20, *Charleston Daily Mail* – (West Virginia) **Roads closed because of rock slides; vehicle reportedly struck.** U.S. 60 near Cedar Grove, West Virginia, was closed because of a rockslide, the Charleston Daily Mail reported March 20. The slide occurred east of the Go Mart convenience store in Cedar Grove where one vehicle was hit by the rocks, a Kahawha County dispatcher said. A spokesman for the Kanawha County Sheriff's Department said one person was transported to a hospital. The division of highways was called to the scene of the slide where the road was expected to reopen about 4 hours later.

Source: http://www.dailymail.com/News/Kanawha/201203200050

For more stories, see items 2, 7, 8, and 46

Return to top

Postal and Shipping Sector

22. *March* 20, *KENS* 5 San Antonio – (Texas) Storm pounds S.A. post office: Truck toppled, glass shattered. A wind event battered the U.S. Post Office in San Antonio March 20, leaving behind shattered glass, a toppled delivery truck, and damage near the rear of the facility. A mail carrier's truck was tossed more than 50 feet. Portions of the front windows of the post office were blasted out. The building's rear parking lot was littered with debris from postal storage trailers. A file cabinet was blown into the lower side of a 18-wheeler that transports mail. Employees said the glass of the cab also shattered, sending glass into the eye of an employee. He was reportedly taken to a local hospital for treatment.

Source: http://www.kens5.com/news/SA-post-office-takes-a-pounding-Storm-tosses-truck-shatters-glass-143454876.html?hpt=us_bn5

Return to top

Agriculture and Food Sector

23. March 21, Sacramento Bee – (California) Man rescued after being partially buried in grain silo near Dunnigan. A man was reported in fair condition after being buried up to his chest in a grain elevator at Adams Grain Co. in Colusa County, California, for nearly 4 hours March 20. Dunnigan firefighters called for assistance from the Colusa County Confined Space Rescue Team, composed of rescue personnel from seven fire agencies. The team found a man trapped in an 80-foot high grain silo with about 25 tons of wheat in the bottom. Employees had been working to empty the silo when the

man got sucked into the wheat. The man hit either the bottom of the silo or a tube that carries wheat into a chute. He said his feet were entangled in something, preventing rescuers from immediately pulling him out. Rescuers constructed a plywood barrier around the man while company employees set up equipment to vacuum the grain out from around him. Once the grain was down to about knee level, rescuers were able to place the man in a special harness and pull him out. He was taken by air ambulance to the hospital. About 20 rescue technicians, along with 20 firefighters, were involved in the rescue.

Source: http://www.sacbee.com/2012/03/21/4354292/man-rescued-after-being-partially.html

- 24. *March 20, Food Safety News* (Washington) **Washington consumers advised not to eat a local farm's eggs.** Eggs produced by Daizen Farms in Burlington, Washington, are from hens that ate feed contaminated with rodent droppings and Salmonella, according to the Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA), Food Safety News reported March 20. The WSDA is warning people not to eat the eggs and has alerted stores that sold them. Eggs were also sold at the farm. After "heavy rodent activity" was observed during a routine U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) investigation, WSDA stated, the two agencies conducted a joint investigation. WSDA said its inspectors saw rodent droppings inside an egg-washing machine during use. March 8, the WSDA embargoed all eggs currently at the farm. All future eggs produced by the same flock, as well as chicken feed were also embargoed. March 19, the FDA laboratory in Bothell, Washington, confirmed a sample of chicken feed collected during the inspection tested positive for Salmonella. The WSDA said the confirmation of Salmonella-contaminated chicken feed increases the likelihood that the farm's laying hens are infected with Salmonella.

 Source: http://www.foodsafetynews.com/2012/03/washington-consumers-warned-not-
 - Source: http://www.foodsafetynews.com/2012/03/washington-consumers-warned-not-to-eat-a-local-farms-eggs/
- 25. March 20, University of Maryland (National) Study confirms oil from Deepwater Horizon disaster entered food chain in the Gulf of Mexico. Since the explosion on the BP Deepwater Horizon drilling rig in the Gulf of Mexico April 20, 2010, scientists have been working to understand the impact the disaster has had on the environment, the University of Maryland reported March 20. For months after the explosion, crude oil gushed into the water. A new study confirms oil from the Macondo well made it into the ocean's food chain through the tiniest of organisms, zooplankton. They serve as food for baby fish and shrimp and act as conduits for the movement of oil contamination and pollutants into the food chain. The study confirms that not only did oil affect the ecosystem in the Gulf during the blowout, but it also was still entering the food web after the well was capped. The study was led by East Carolina University with researchers from the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science, Oregon State University, Georgia Institute of Technology, and U.S. Geological Survey. Source: http://www.umces.edu/hpl/release/2012/mar/12/study-confirms-oil-deepwater-horizon-disaster-entered-food-chain-gulf-mexico
- 26. *March 19, Associated Press* (National) **USDA warns of fraudulent letters.** The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) said someone is faxing fraudulent letters to people

and businesses in Wisconsin and other states, the Associated Press reported March 19. The letters claim to come from a USDA procurement officer and seek personal information. They have the USDA logo and seal and are signed by a man using the title "senior procurement officer." The false letters have been faxed to Wisconsin, Alabama, Nebraska, and Pennsylvania, and may have been sent to other states.

Source: http://www.claimsjournal.com/news/national/2012/03/19/203180.htm

For more stories, see items 6 and 31

Return to top

Water Sector

- 27. March 21, KGNB 1420 AM New Braunfels (Texas) Storms cause wastewater overflow at San Marcos treatment plant. The San Marcos Municipal Airport recorded nearly 2.25 inches of rain March 20 in a short period of time, causing high levels of runoff that entered the main wastewater lift station in San Marcos, Texas. That runoff triggered an overflow of around 430,000 gallons of untreated sewage into the San Marcos River. That wastewater was quickly diluted by the rainwater and the river itself, and San Marcos officials did not anticipate any environmental impact, even though the same issue happened during heavy rains in January 2012. The wastewater treatment plant in question has been undergoing repairs since that time. Source: http://kgnb.am/news/storms-cause-wastewater-overflow-san-marcos-treatment
 - plant
- 28. March 21, WXYZ 7 Detroit (Michigan) Dumping of hazardous materials causes nearby medical center to close air intakes. The Detroit Fire Department HAZMAT Unit blocked streets in the midtown area of Detriot near the Detroit Medical Center (DMC) March 20 as they investigated an odor noticeable to some workers with the medical center, patients, and Wayne State University students. HAZMAT team members detected a chemical in the sewer line. It appeared that someone, at an unknown location, dumped a large amount of a chemical, possibly paint thinner or lacquer, into the sewer. Crews from Detroit's Water & Sewerage Department spent hours flushing out the sewer line, pushing the substance to the wastewater treatment plant. It was unclear if the dumping was intentional or an accident. A spokesperson for DMC said that for several hours March 20, they shut off all air intakes in the buildings on campus and tested the air and water as a precaution. There were no evacuations or reports of any injuries.

Source: http://www.wxyz.com/dpp/news/region/detroit/detroit-fire-departmentdeclares-hazmat-situation-in-midtown#ixzz1pg0Mckoy

29. March 21, KXXV 25 Waco – (Texas) Storms cause wastewater problems in Waco, **Temple.** Heavy rainfall March 19 and 20 caused wastewater problems in both Waco and Temple, Texas. Waco had discharges of domestic wastewater in 42 locations throughout the city, releasing more than 200,000 gallons of the contaminated water. The heavy rainfall overwhelmed the sewer system, causing lines to back up. City crews worked to contain the overflow. City officials stressed there was no reason to believe

drinking water had been tainted or compromised, and the notice of overflow was mandated by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. Temple had a similar problem in 21 locations across town. The rainfall infiltration into the city's wastewater collection system caused overflows at several manholes and a lift station. City public works utility service crews were disinfecting those areas.

Source: http://www.kxxv.com/story/17206322/storms-cause-wastewater-problems-in-waco-temple

- 30. *March 19, New Orleans Times-Picayune* (Louisiana) **Edgard water plant cited for violations over 5 years.** St. John the Baptist Parish's west bank water treatment system was cited by the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality for 9 violations of the federal Clean Water Act over a 5-year period ending in 2011. Among the violations, water plant personnel failed to monitor or report levels of the contaminants trihalomethanes and haloacetic acids for much of 2009, the New Orleans Times-Picayune reported March 19. The report also said the water department had not taken measures to protect its water intake from damage due to anchor-dragging, debris, or other sources of pollution. The report, received by the parish in February, also cited the parish for having only one water clarifier at the treatment plant rather than the required two. A parish spokeswoman said many of the citations are the result of a change in Environmental Protection Agency regulations to track infractions over a 5-year period rather than a 1-year period. Many of the problems have already been resolved, she said. A parish councilman said a failure at the plant would be "life-changing" for residents. Source:
 - http://www.nola.com/politics/index.ssf/2012/03/edgard_water_plant_cited_for_v.html
- 31. March 16, KFSN 30 Fresno (California) 50 dead cows found at Merced County Dairy. More than 50 decomposing cow carcasses were found partially buried in manure at a Gustine dairy in Gustine, California, KSFN 30 Fresno reported March 16. The Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Water Board) said the cows were found in the production area of Rego Dairy #2. The dairy is owned and operated by the Rego Family Trust. It was cited with many serious violations during a routine inspection February 2012. In addition to the decaying carcasses, Water Board staff found violations at the wastewater lagoon, including eroded paths where wastewater had flowed off the property and into a drainage ditch, excessive weeds and rodent holes, and multiple discarded veterinary medical supplies, including syringes. Water Board inspectors found evidence of cropland being used as a dumping area for manure wastewater from the lagoon. The dairy was also found to be in violation of recordkeeping rules, and of the permitted limits for herd size. The Water Board's executive officer said, "This dairy's lack of good management practices and blatant disregard for the law impacts both surface and groundwater, posing dangers to public health and polluting the waters of the State of California." The Water Board said they are considering imposing penalties or referring the case to the attorney general. Source: http://abclocal.go.com/kfsn/story?section=news/local&id=8584088

Return to top

Public Health and Healthcare Sector

See item 28

Return to top

Government Facilities Sector

- 32. *March 21, Associated Press* (Texas) **Arrest made in attack on state senator's office.** Police said they arrested a homeless man late March 20, hours after he threw bottles filled with lighter fluid at the Fort Worth, Texas office of a Democratic state senator starting a small fire. Staffers inside the office opened the door to find burning bottles and waist-high flames. The Fort Worth police chief said March 21 that the man had been known to frequent the area and visited the senator's office March 16 and March 19. The man asked to speak with the senator who was not there. Staffers said the man told them they would soon "read about him in the news."

 Source: http://www.chron.com/news/article/Arrest-made-in-attack-on-state-senator-s-office-3423960.php
- 33. *March* 20, *Birmingham News* (Alabama) **Thieves pillage Fairfield City Hall air conditioners.** Thieves vandalized six of seven air conditioner units at city hall in Fairfield, Alabama, between March 19-20 in a search for copper, a city official said March 20. The mayor said the city is in the process of getting a cost estimate on the damage done, but he added the units will probably need to be replaced. The city plans to install an iron fence around the units to deter future thefts. This is the second time in the last 2 years the air conditioners at city hall have been targeted. In early 2010, thieves did about \$20,000 worth of damage to the units while seeking the copper. Source: http://blog.al.com/spotnews/2012/03/theives-pillage-fairfield-city.html

For more stories, see items 11, 28, 35, and 46

Return to top

Emergency Services Sector

34. *March 21, Associated Press* – (Tennessee) **Former prison guard arrested in foiled death row inmate escape plot.** Authorities in Tennessee said two men, including a former prison guard, have been arrested for a plot to break out Tennessee's lone female death row inmate. New Jersey State Police March 19 arrested one of the suspects who had frequently visited the inmate in prison, on a charge of bribery and conspiracy to commit escape. The Tennessee Bureau of Investigation said a former correctional officer at the Tennessee Prison for women was also receiving money and gifts for his help in the planned escape. He was indicted on charges of bribery, conspiracy to commit escape, and facilitation to commit escape.

Source: http://www.foxnews.com/us/2012/03/21/former-prison-guard-arrested-infoiled-death-row-inmate-escape-plot/

35. *March 20, Arkadelphia Siftings Herald* – (Arkansas) **Terrorism training exercise planned.** A full-scale, counter-terrorism emergency response exercise will take place March 29 to test emergency plans and agency response for some 20 local, county, state, and federal agencies in Arkansas. Plans are to present responders with simulated emergency situations at strategic sites on or near lakes Ouachita, Hamilton, and Catherine, as well as the Ouachita River. Carpenter Dam will serve as the primary exercise site, as well as the primary point of control for the entire series of events. Most exercise details are not being revealed so that they actually test participating agencies and existing emergency response plans.

Source: http://www.siftingsherald.com/news/x1837951463/Terrorism-training-exercise-planned

For another story, see item 9

Return to top

Information Technology Sector

36. *March 21*, *H Security* – (International) **Joomla! 2.5 update fixes security vulnerabilities.** The Joomla! project released version 2.5.3 of its open source content management system. This is a security update that addresses two "High Priority" vulnerabilities. The first of these is caused by an unspecified programming error that could have allowed a malicious user to gain escalated privileges. The other hole is an error in random number generation when resetting passwords that could be exploited by an attacker to change a user's password. Versions 2.5.0 to 2.5.2 as well as all 1.7.x and 1.6.x releases are affected.

Source: http://www.h-online.com/security/news/item/Joomla-2-5-update-fixes-security-vulnerabilities-1476632.html

37. *March 21, Threatpost* – (International) **Firefox users to get secure Google search by default.** Mozilla has made a small but important change to the way its Firefox browser handles search queries directed to Google, making the search provider's encrypted search service the default option. The modification is not in the stable version of Firefox yet, but users who download the daily beta builds can access it now. The switch to using HTTPS for search by default is a major step forward for Mozilla in terms of protecting the privacy of users' search queries and results. Google has had an option for encrypted search for some time, and the company made secure search the default choice for users who are logged in to their Google accounts in October 2011. However, Google has not made that option the default for its Chrome browser. With the change in Firefox, users of Mozilla's browser now have an extra layer of protection for their search queries, something that is becoming increasingly important in the age of surveillance, targeted ads, and data sale

Source: http://threatpost.com/en_us/blogs/firefox-users-get-secure-google-search-default-032112

38. *March 21*, *Softpedia* – (International) **Researcher finds code execution flaw in Google Earth.** A code execution vulnerability was identified by a Georgian security

researcher in Google Earth. He showed how a local attacker could leverage a security hole to execute a piece of malicious code. The flaw can be reproduced by opening the program and clicking on the Placemark button. Instead of a legitimate Place parameter, an arbitrary code can be inserted and run. A proof-of-concept shows how a hacker could run a piece of code or open a Web site. Since the issue affects all versions of Google Earth, the vendor was notified.

Source: http://news.softpedia.com/news/Researcher-Finds-Code-Execution-Flaw-in-Google-Earth-259976.shtml

39. *March* 20, *Threatpost* – (International) **Exploit for Ms12-020 RDP bug moves to**Metasploit. As the inquiry into who leaked the proof-of-concept exploit code for the MS12-020 RDP flaw continues, organizations that have not patched their machines yet have a new motivation to do so: A Metasploit module for the vulnerability is now available. Such a vulnerability is a typically a good indicator attacks are about to ramp up. The exploit in Metasploit, like the one that has been circulating online, causes a denial-of-service condition on vulnerable machines. Researchers have been working on developing a working remote code execution exploit for the bug, but none has surfaced publicly yet.

Source: http://threatpost.com/en_us/blogs/exploit-ms12-020-rdp-bug-moves-metasploit-032012

40. *March* 20, *H Security* – (International) Address spoofing vulnerability in iOS's Safari. Through a vulnerability in WebKit in the mobile version of Safari, an attacker could manipulate the address bar in the browser and lead the user to a malicious site with a fake URL showing above it. A security researcher published an advisory that explains the problem. Incorrect handling of the URL when the JavaScript method "window.open()" is used allows an attacker to "own" HTML and JavaScript code in the new window and, in turn, change the address bar. Fraudsters could use the vulnerability for phishing attacks by sending users to pages that appear to be their bank and asking for account data. The vulnerability affects WebKit 534.46 in the latest iOS version 5.1, though earlier versions of iOS may also exhibit the problem. Users of third party browsers based on WebKit on iOS could also be vulnerable to the address spoofing. The researcher informed Apple of the problem in early March. Source: <a href="http://www.h-online.com/security/news/item/Address-spoofing-vulnerability-vulnerab

Source: http://www.h-online.com/security/news/item/Address-spoofing-vulnerability-in-iOS-s-Safari-1476314.html

41. *March 20, Ars Technica* – (International) **Data breaches increasingly caused by hacks, malicious attacks.** A new study of data breaches found criminal and malicious attacks accounted for 37 percent of corporate data breaches in 2011, a 6 percent rise from 2010. The study, performed by Ponemon Institute and sponsored by Symantec, also found that these attacks were much more costly to companies than breaches caused by software or hardware failures or by internal negligence. More than two-thirds of malicious attacks were achieved through some sort of electronic exploit — only 28 percent involved the physical theft of data storage devices. The study also found that 33 percent of criminal and malicious breaches involved insiders.

Source: http://arstechnica.com/business/news/2012/03/data-breaches-increasingly-caused-by-hacks-malicious-attacks.ars

42. *March 20, Wireless Week* – (International) **Report: In-app ads pose significant** security risk. Researchers from North Carolina State University found that in-app advertisements pose privacy and security risks. In a recent study of 100,000 apps in the Google Play market, researchers noticed that more than half contained so-called ad libraries. And 297 of the apps included aggressive ad libraries that were enabled to download and run code from remote servers, which the researchers said raise significant privacy and security concerns. An assistant professor of computer science at the university and co-author of a paper describing the work, said in a statement that running code downloaded from the Internet is problematic because the code could be anything. "For example, it could potentially launch a 'root exploit' attack to take control of your phone — as demonstrated in a recently discovered piece of Android malware called RootSmart," he wrote.

Source: http://www.wirelessweek.com/News/2012/03/report-in-app-ads-pose-security-risk/

For more stories, see items $\underline{13}$, $\underline{15}$, $\underline{16}$, and $\underline{43}$

Internet Alert Dashboard

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at sos@us-cert.gov or visit their Web site: http://www.us-cert.gov

Information on IT information sharing and analysis can be found at the IT ISAC (Information Sharing and Analysis Center) Web site: https://www.it-isac.org

Return to top

Communications Sector

43. *March 21, Wireless Week* – (National) Virgin Mobile USA hit by national data, SMS outage. Virgin Mobile USA was recovering March 21 from a national outage that left customers across the country without data or text messaging service. The network problems were confirmed by the prepaid provider in posts on its Twitter and Facebook accounts the afternoon of March 20. "We are currently experiencing a national data & text messaging outage," the company said on its Facebook page. A company spokeswoman said March 21 that the interruption in service has since been resolved and the problem stemmed from one of its servers. "We did have some issues related to a server," she said. "In most cases, it required customers to remove their battery and restart device." Virgin Mobile is one of Sprint's prepaid brands, and runs its voice, data, and SMS service on Sprint's CDMA EV-DO network. Neither Sprint nor its prepaid brand Boost Mobile has reported any issues. However, Assurance Wireless, another Sprint brand operated by Virgin Mobile, told a customer on its Facebook page who was having problems with text service that "we were experiencing a 3G/MMS/SMS outage yesterday."

 $Source: \underline{http://www.wirelessweek.com/News/2012/03/networks-Virgin-Mobile-Hit-By-\underline{Outage/}}$

For another story, see item 42

Return to top

Commercial Facilities Sector

44. *March 21*, *Detroit Free Press* – (Michigan) **Detroit fire chief: Apartment fire was arson.** A fire March 20 in a central Detroit apartment building was "100 percent arson" and sent five people to the hospital for smoke inhalation, according to a Detroit Fire Department chief. Residents of the Chatham Apartments, which contains about 80 units, had to be evacuated from the complex after an unidentified arsonist lit bags of trash afire on the fifth floor. All of those who suffered smoke inhalation, including a firefighter, are expected to recover.

Source: http://www.freep.com/article/20120320/NEWS01/120321001/Detroit-fire-chief-Apartment-fire-arson?odyssey=nav|head

- 45. *March 21, Petersburg Progress-Index* (Virginia) **Apparent explosion causes evacuation at Colonial Heights Walmart.** Hundreds of people were evacuated from a Walmart store in Colonial Heights, Virginia, after a propane tank apparently exploded behind the store's lawn and garden area March 21. The Colonial Heights fire chief said that apparently a relief valve on one of the tanks had failed. When all the gas evacuated from the propane tank, it caused damage to the cage the tanks are stored in. Source: http://progress-index.com/news/apparent-explosion-causes-evacuation-at-colonial-heights-walmart-1.1288595#axzz1plOU04yS
- 46. March 21, Associated Press (National) Storms shuffle through south-central **U.S.** Storms shuffled through parts of the south-central United States again March 20, bringing more heavy rain, damaging winds, and thunder so loud some people in Oklahoma mistook it for an earthquake. Forecasters said the slow-moving storm system could cause more flash floods, hail, strong winds, and possibly tornadoes in a corridor stretching from Texas east to Louisiana and as far north as Missouri. In Morrilton, Arkansas, strong winds caused extensive damage, including the destruction of the city parks complex along with its concession and exhibit buildings at the Conway County Fairgrounds. Firefighters in Midway, Arkansas, also evacuated storm damaged mobile homes that day. Tornado warnings were issued in eight Arkansas counties, but no tornadoes were immediately confirmed. Officials in southeast Kansas closed several bridges, and workers in Missouri shut down a rural roadway after rain sparked flash flooding. In Arkansas and Oklahoma, the U.S. Forest Service closed campsites in lowlying areas to avoid another catastrophe like the flash flood that killed 20 people at a remote campground in 2010. Storms rattled Tulsa, Oklahoma, with thunder so strong it registered on seismic equipment.

Source: http://cjonline.com/news/2012-03-21/storms-shuffle-through-south-central-us

47. *March 21*, *WHSV 3 Harrisonburg* – (Virginia) **Chemical spill closes Westover Park pool.** Heavy rain in Harrisonburg, Virginia, March 20 caused a chemical spill at the Westover Swimming Pool complex March 21. So much rain in such a short amount of time that a drain for the pool was blocked. The water flooded the area near the tanks that hold cleaning chemicals for the pool, causing a 50-gallon barrel holding acid to

burst. Fire crews from Harrisonburg helped contain the spread of the acid. The pool's aquatic director said the pool would be closed March 21 so crews can assess and repair any damages caused by the flooding and chemical leak.

Source:

http://www.whsv.com/news/headlines/Chemical Spill Closes Westover Park Pool 1 43633126.html

- 48. *March* 20, *Torrance Daily Breeze* (California) **Fire causes evacuation from Hermosa Beach gym, office building.** A fire in an electrical vault forced the evacuation of 60-100 people March 20 from a 24 Hour Fitness gym and offices in Hermosa Beach, California, firefighters said. The fire sent thick black smoke through the building. Firefighters had to cut through the vault's metal door with a rotary saw to get to the flames, which were doused with a dried chemical in about 20 minutes. The gym was able to reopen about a little more than 5 hours later. Ten other businesses and offices were also forced to evacuate. Power was also knocked out to some businesses. Source: http://www.dailybreeze.com/news/ci_20217067/fire-causes-evacuation-from-hermosa-beach-gym-office
- 49. *March 20, Salt Lake Tribune* (Utah) Cigarette believed cause of Roy apartment fire. A fire that caused an estimated \$750,000 in damage to a Roy, Utah apartment complex March 19 was believed to have been started by an unattended cigarette, fire officials said March 20. The fire began on the balcony of the top southeast apartment in the Herefordshire Apartment Complex. Investigators said the fire was fueled by a propane bottle on the deck and household chemicals, such as paint thinner, inside the home. In all, the fire rendered 12 units uninhabitable.

 Source: http://www.sltrib.com/sltrib/news/53756278-78/apartment-fire-complex-

<u>believed.html.csp</u>

For more stories, see items $\underline{16}$, $\underline{41}$, and $\underline{52}$

Return to top

National Monuments and Icons Sector

- 50. *March 21, Ocala Star-Banner* (Florida) **Lake Bryant 14 fire estimated at 266** acres. Firefighters continued to battle a wildfire in the Ocala National Forest in Florida March 21. The fire officially called the Lake Bryant 14 fire involved an estimated 266 acres. County, state, and U.S. Forest Service firefighters were involved in the effort to contain the blaze. Firefighters planned to survey it from the air to get a more exact estimate of its size. A Florida Forest Service spokeswoman warned smoke and fog could create hazardous driving conditions in the Ocala National Forest at night. Source: http://www.ocala.com/article/20120321/ARTICLES/120329935
- 51. *March 19, Associated Press* (Hawaii) **Hawaii reaches \$15.4M settlement in hikers' deaths.** Hawaii will pay \$15.4 million to settle a lawsuit involving two hikers who fell to their deaths on the island of Kauai in 2006. The Honolulu Star-Advertiser reported March 20 the out-of-court settlement is subject to approval by the state legislature. A

Honolulu attorney said the family of the victim would receive \$15 million. A lawyer who represented the other victim said that victim's family would receive \$425,000, a lower amount because she did not earn as much as her cousin. Both victims were visiting Kauai when they fell from Opaekaa Falls. A Kauai judge previously ruled the state was liable in their deaths.

Source: http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-

bin/article.cgi?f=/n/a/2012/03/19/state/n171041D69.DTL

For another story, see item 46

Return to top

Dams Sector

52. *March* 20, *Sioux City Journal* – (Iowa) **Removal of Dakota Dunes levee to begin.** Crews were to start taking down the temporary levee protecting Dakota Dunes,
Iowa, from the Missouri River, the week of March 19. The community improvement
district director said the removal is the first step in building a permanent levee to
protect the community if the river floods again. The levee was built to protect Dakota
Dunes from flooding the summer of 2011 and was not constructed to engineering
standards needed to stay in place, he said. The first section of the permanent levee will
be built along the 17th and 18th holes at the Dakota Dunes Country Club golf course.
Those holes need to be rebuilt as a result of the 2011 flooding, and country club owners
want to incorporate the levee into the course. Construction of the first section of the
permanent levee should be completed by midsummer 2012. Plans are also in the works
to build additional permanent levees. The project is expected to cost about \$700,000
and is being paid for with grants and a tax levy.

Source: http://siouxcityjournal.com/news/local/removal-of-dakota-dunes-levee-to-begin/article_c2a23526-1f64-574e-9aa6-da17483e5667.html

53. March 20, Associated Press – (Louisiana) Tarpan Construction of Cottonport to build 3-mile dike to protect Lake Borgne's Shell Beach. A Cottonport, Louisiana construction company has been contracted to build a stone dike nearly 3 miles long to protect the Lake Borgne shoreline near Shell Beach in St. Bernard Parish, Louisiana, the Associated Press reported March 20. It will run parallel to the shoreline in an area where wind and waves are eroding about 4 to 5 feet of the shore a year, breaching wetlands including marshes and shallow ponds, according to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. A Corps summary said the project will be along the bank of the lake's eastern lobe and will stop erosion from waves pushed ashore by wind. Over 50 years, the summary said, the dike should save 90 acres of wetlands.

http://www.therepublic.com/view/story/f634d66db4f2467dad81b186c3370690/LA-Shell-Beach-Dike/

54. *March 19, WAFB 9 Baton Rouge* – (Louisiana) **Corps of Engineers: BR levee safer, if Mississippi River floods.** The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers continues construction on a seepage berm near Duncan Point in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, to stop water from

bubbling up through the levee, WAFB 9 Baton Rogue reported March 19. Corps officials said the project is about 70 percent complete and should be finished in August. Crews stacked more than 10,000 sandbags in the area when water from the Mississippi River pushed beneath the levee during the floods in 2011. In October 2011, the Corps went ahead with plans to build a 1,500-foot berm on the protected side of the levee, to prevent that from happening again.

Source: http://www.wafb.com/story/17194981/corp-of-engineers-br-levee-safer-if-mississippi-river-floods

For another story, see item <u>35</u>

Return to top



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